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I claim:

1. An apparatus for receiving splice data for each of a plurality of optical fiber splices, each of the plurality of optical fiber splices being uniquely identified by at least one of a plurality of splice indicia, the apparatus comprising:

a data interface for receiving the splice data; and

a data storage device coupled with the data interface, for receiving the splice data and the splice indicia from the data interface and for storing the splice data and the splice indicia.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage device stores the splice data and the splice indicia such that, for each of the optical fiber splices, the splice data and the splice indicium for a respective optical fiber splice are stored together in a unique data record.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 coupled with a splicer, wherein the data interface includes a splicer input interface configured to receive the splice data from a splicer.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a storage medium removably connectible with the data storage device, the splice data and the splice indicia being stored on the storage medium.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the splice data includes at least one of a manufacture date, an installation date, a manufacture time, an installation time, an installation location, and an optical loss, associated with each of the optical fiber splices.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the splice data includes image data representing images of at least a portion of each of the optical fiber splices.

7. ~~7.~~ The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the splice data includes cross reference

information representing a cross reference between one of the plurality of optical fiber splices and another one of the plurality of optical fiber splices.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a bar code reader coupled with the data interface for reading the splice indicia.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an optical wand coupled with the data interface for reading the splice indicia.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data interface further includes an electronic memory device input interface and an electromagnetic probe connected to the electronic memory device input interface for reading the splice indicia from a memory of an electronic memory device.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an external storage device interface coupled to the data interface, and a housing containing at least a portion of the data interface and at least a portion of the data storage device, the external storage device interface being configured to receive the splice data and the splice indicia from an external storage device external to the housing.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of optical fiber splices are uniquely defined by the plurality of splice indicia within a particular optical fiber system.

13. An apparatus for selecting splice data for an optical fiber splice based on a selected splice indicium from a plurality of unique splice indicia, the selected splice indicium uniquely identifying the optical fiber splice, the apparatus comprising:

a input data interface for receiving the selected splice indicium;

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a data storage device coupled with the input data interface for storing the splice data and the plurality of splice indicia;

a processor coupled with the data storage device for retrieving from the data storage device the splice data associated with the selected splice indicium; and

an output data interface for outputting the splice data.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the data storage device stores the splice data and the splice indicia such that the splice data and the selected splice indicium are stored together in a unique data record.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a storage medium removably connectible with the data storage device, the splice data and the splice indicia being stored on the storage medium.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the data storage device comprises a memory chip, the splice data and the splice indicia being stored in the memory chip.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the splice data includes at least one of a manufacture date, an installation date, a manufacture time, an installation time, an installation location, and an optical loss, associated with the optical fiber splice.

18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the splice data includes image data representing an image of at least a portion of the optical fiber splice.

19. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the splice data includes cross reference information representing a cross reference between the optical fiber splice and another optical fiber splice.

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20. The apparatus of claim 13, further including a bar code reader coupled with the input data interface for reading the selected splice indicium.

21. The apparatus of claim 13, further including an optical wand coupled with the input data interface for reading the selected splice indicium.

22. The apparatus of claim 13, further including at least one of a keyboard and a keypad coupled with the input data interface for receiving the selected splice indicium.

23. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the input data interface further includes an electronic memory device input interface, and an electromagnetic probe coupled with the electronic memory device input interface for electronically reading the selected splice indicium from an electronic memory device.

24. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the output data interface includes a data port for outputting data representing the splice data.

25. The apparatus of claim 13, further including a display coupled with the output data interface for displaying the splice data.

26. The apparatus of claim 13, further including an external storage device interface coupled with the data interface, and a housing containing at least a portion of the data interface and at least a portion of the storage device, the external storage device interface being configured to receive the splice data and the splice indicia from an external storage device external to the housing.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the external storage device interface comprises a wireless transmitter for wirelessly transmitting the splice data and the splice indicia

to the external storage device.

28. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the selected splice indicium uniquely identifies the optical fiber splice within a particular optical fiber system.

29. A method for storing splice data and splice indicia associated with optical fiber splices, the method comprising the steps of:

splicing a plurality of optical fiber portions together to create a plurality of optical fiber splices;

generating splice data for each of the optical fiber splices;

assigning each of the optical fiber splices a splice indicium from a plurality of unique splice indicia; and

storing the splice data and the splice indicia in a storage device.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of storing includes storing the splice data and the splice indicia such that, for each of the optical fiber splices, the splice data and the splice indicium for a respective optical fiber splice are stored together in a unique data record.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of storing includes storing the splice data including at least one of a manufacture date, an installation date, a manufacture time, an installation time, an installation location, and an optical loss, associated with each of the optical fiber splices.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of storing includes storing the splice data including image data representing an image of at least a portion of each of the optical fiber splices.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of storing includes storing the splice data including cross reference information representing a cross reference between one of the plurality of optical fiber splices and another one of the plurality of optical fiber splices.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of assigning includes assigning each of the optical fiber splices a unique splice indicium from the plurality of splice indicia, the plurality of splice indicia being unique within a particular optical fiber system.

35. A method for retrieving splice data for an optical fiber splice based on a selected splice indicium from a plurality of unique splice indicia, the selected splice indicium uniquely identifying the optical fiber splice, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting the selected splice indicium;

inputting the selected splice indicium to an input device;

retrieving from a storage device coupled to the input device the splice data associated with the selected splice indicium; and

outputting data representing the splice data.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of retrieving includes retrieving the splice data from the storage device based on the selected splice indicium, the splice data and the splice indicia being stored in the storage device such that the splice data and the selected splice indicium are stored together in a unique data record.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of retrieving includes retrieving the splice data including at least one of a manufacture date, an installation date, a manufacture time, an installation time, an installation location, and an optical loss, associated with the optical fiber

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splice.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of retrieving includes retrieving image data representing an image of at least a portion of the optical fiber splice.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of retrieving includes retrieving cross reference information representing a cross reference between the optical fiber splice and another optical fiber splice.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of selecting includes selecting the selected splice indicium, the selected splice indicium uniquely identifying the splice within a particular optical fiber system.

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